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IN THE CLAIMS**RECEIVED
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Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A method of constructing an electrode assembly including:

~~providing an electrically conductive, elongate pin;~~~~providing a first polarity electrode strip;~~~~providing a second polarity electrode strip;~~~~electrically connecting a first end of a first said first polarity electrode strip to a pin;~~positioning mounting a reinforcing mandrel on a said pin such that a portion of a first electrode strip is positioned between the mandrel and the pin; andwinding together the first polarity electrode strip together with a second electrode strip so as to and the second polarity electrode strip to form a spiral roll, the spiral roll being formed after positioning the mandrel on the pin.40. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, ~~39 including the further step of further comprising:~~~~crimping the reinforcing mandrel to the pin.~~41. (currently amended) The method of claim 39, ~~39 including the further step of further comprising:~~~~welding the reinforcing mandrel to the pin.~~

42.-70. (canceled)

71. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the spiral roll is formed such that a portion of the pin is positioned in the spiral roll and another portion of the pin is positioned outside of the spiral roll.

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72. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel is positioned on the pin such that the mandrel is in electrical communication with the pin.

73. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein an end cap is positioned on the pin, the end cap being configured to serve as a cap for a battery case, the end cap including an electrical insulator, and the pin extending through the insulator.

74. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the end cap includes a conductive member surrounding the insulator.

75. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes positioning the pin in an interior of the tube.

77. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

78. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes sliding the mandrel onto the pin.

79. (new) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
connecting the first electrode sheet to the pin before positioning the mandrel on the pin.

80. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the first end of the first electrode strip is connected to the pin such that the pin is in electrical communication with the first electrode strip.